



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/759,184	01/12/2001	Peter J. Lanigan	GB 000005	9979
24737	7590	06/29/2004	EXAMINER PIZARRO, RICARDO M	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			ART UNIT 2661	PAPER NUMBER 4

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/759,184

Applicant(s)

LANIGAN ET AL.

Examiner

Ricardo M. Pizarro

Art Unit

2661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-7,11 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. This application lacks formal drawings. The informal drawings filed in this application are acceptable for examination purposes. When the application is allowed, applicant will be required to submit new formal drawings.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-12 are objected to because of the following informalities and it is suggested to applicant:

In claim 1 line 2 delete "the", in line 8 insert "respective" before -table- and replace the first occurrence of "the" with -a-, in line 10 delete "the".

In claim 2 line 1 insert "said " before -each- and respective" before -table-, in line 2 delete "the" and replace "capability" with -capabilities-.

In claim 3 line 5 replace "table" with -table-.

In claim 4 line 3 replace the first occurrence of "a" with -the respective-..

In claim 5 line 2 replace the second occurrence of "the" with -a- and insert respective" before -table- , in line 3 delete the first occurrence of "the" and replace "holding" with -reading-.

In claim 6 line 2 insert "respective" before -table- and replace "holding" with -reading-.

In claim 7 line 2 insert "respective" before t-table-.

In claim 8 line 2 replace "a" with -the-.

In claim 9 line 2 replace "a" with -the respective- .

In claim 10 line 2 replace "a" with -the respective- .

Art Unit: 2661

In claim 11 line 2 delete "the" and replace "a" with -the.

In claim 12 line 2 delete "the" .

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1, 2, 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Okada.

US patent no. 5,668,601 (Okada et al) discloses an Audio/Video decoding system comprising data processing system comprising a cluster of devices interconnected for the communication of data in streams wherein, (System Decoder device 108, Audio Decoder 2 and Video Decoder device 3 in Fig. 12) for at least two data streams (Audio stream and video stream) to be sent to one or more devices as destination devices of -said cluster- (Devices 2 and 3 in fig. 12) , at least one device of the cluster comprises means arranged to apply a respective delay to at least one of said at least two data streams in an amount determined by differing signal path latencies for said at least two data streams(Controllers 14 and 24 compute audio decoder internal delay and video decoder internal delay respectively, col 8 lines 21-24 and 61-64); wherein at least some devices of the cluster maintain a respective table(controller 14 stores an audio delay table and controller 24 stores a video delay table, col 8 line 47, col 9 line 16), readable via said interconnection by other devices of said cluster, each such table identifying one or more latencies for the respective device(audio and video tables) , and the means arranged to apply a delay operating to apply delay on the basis of table contents (col 8 lines 21-24 and 61-64) , as in claim 1; wherein each table identifies, for its respective device, signal processing capabilities for that device, together with the latency associated with each such capability (upon computation of audio reproduction

Art Unit: 2661

time, controller 14/controller 24 looks up data table to know an internal delay time in the audio decoder 2/video decoder 3 respectively, col 8 lines 50-53, col 9 lines 21-23) as in claim 2; destination devices maintain a respective table (destination devices 32 and 33 in Fig. 10 maintain tables within controllers 14 and 42 respectively) ,as in claim 8; means arranged to apply delay comprises buffering means (both controller means to apply delay include memory means , as in claim 9; means arranged to apply a delay comprises means to apply a delay to reading of one of said data streams from a source(col 9 lines 13-15), as in claim 10.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3-7, 11-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. . Please also notice objection to claims under 37 CFR 1.75

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- US patent No. 6,163,646 (Tanaka et al) discloses an Apparatus for a synchronized playback of audio-video signals
- US Patent no.6,275,507 (Anderson et al) discloses a transport demultiplexer for an MPEG compliant data stream

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Application/Control Number: 09/759,184
Art Unit: 2661

Page 5

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314

(for formal communications intended for entry, for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

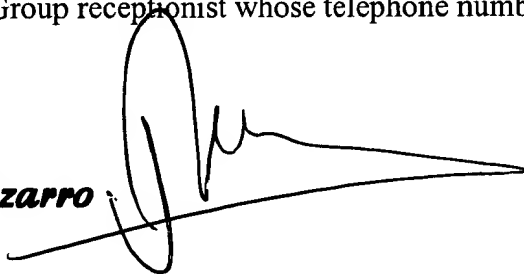
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Ricardo Pizarro** whose telephone number is (703) 305-1121. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. The fax number for this Group is (703) 872-9314.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Douglas Olms**, can be reached on (703) 305-4703.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.\

6/23/2004

Ricardo M. Pizarro

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ricardo M. Pizarro', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.